



The Flint Unitarian Universalist

vol. 29, No. 18 December 2009

"A Beacon of Love and Acceptance in Mid-Michigan"

Worship Service and Religious Education Classes
begin at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays

Sunday Services

December 6 - Advent and the Wheel of Life

Advent is the time when we dare to hope. The wheel of life has brought us to a new day. We have many skills and much knowledge. Do we have the will to create a better world?
Speaker – Rev. Ranck; Worship Associate – Aimee Loubert

December 13 - Candlesticks, Beer Cans and Fortune Cookies

New light, new life, and the gift of love.
Speaker – Rev. Ranck; Worship Associate – Sue Kinsey

December 20 – Christmas Pageant

Presented by Amy Peterson Derrick and Pia Broden-Williams

December 24 - Christmas Potpourri

Stories and carols and candlelight for all ages. SOUP SOCIAL following the service!
Speaker – Rev. Ranck; Worship Associate – John Straw

December 27 – Lay Service

Speaker – Amy Derrick; Worship Associate – Chris Monk

Ministers

The Congregation &
Rev. Shirley Ranck

Director of Lifespan Learning

Amy Peterson Derrick

Music Director

Pia Broden-Williams

Office Manager

Cheryl Craig

Moderator

June Urdy

Treasurer

Marion Van Winkle

Secretary

Bob Brown

Justice & Communications

Ann Giese

Worship & Music

Christine Monk

Lifespan Learning

Sheila Smith

Membership & Red Carpet

Rose Klein

Operations & Finance

Dr. Van Winkle

Fundraising

Bob Barnett

Newsletter

Nyama Marsh

Shirley's Cauldron

"Each night a child is born is a holy night..." - Sophia Lyon Fahs

As Unitarian Universalists we do not celebrate the birth of a divine savior. We rejoice in new life whenever it appears. What then do we celebrate at Christmas? We may wish to honor the birth of Jesus of Nazareth because we respect his teachings. But I wonder if there isn't something more to this special season. In a very real sense our life on this planet depends upon the light of the sun. The variety of climates in which human beings thrive is made possible by changes in the amount of sunlight that reaches us through the year. This solstice season is about that cycle of light, and the life made possible by the return each year of the sunlight.

We celebrate the longest night of the year, the turning point, the time when reliably every year the days begin to grow longer. Human beings in many cultures have seen this turning point, this return of the light, as a symbol of hope and a promise of new life. In the oldest myths the Sun Child is born, a harbinger of the new life of Spring. How awesome and how important to remind ourselves of the delicate balance of earth and sun which gives us life! May we pause and take note of the light, and may the season bring hope and joy to us all.

Blessed be!
Shirley

Minister's Office Hours

Interim Minister, Rev. Shirley Ranck has office hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Other hours are available by appointment. Please see the Order of Service for Rev. Ranck's phone number.

Second Sunday Donation

We collected \$759.90 on November 8, 2009, for Planned Parenthood. Our congregation always seems to honor Planned Parenthood with a good collection. Thank you. Next month, we will collect for Wellness AIDS Services on December 13. World Aids Day is December 1, so this is a good month to support them. Wellness AIDS Services assists in the care of people affected by HIV/AIDS and promotes education and prevention in the community.

Marion Van Winkle for Social Justice and Outreach

Treasurer's Two Cents

Jason Galvas has taken a new job that prevents him from continuing with his volunteer work as Treasurer for our church. Thank you, Jason, for your good work as Treasurer and as an Executive Committee, Board and Endowment Committee member. We were in very capable hands and we appreciate all your efforts.

The Board has approved Marion Van Winkle as his temporary replacement until our Annual Meeting in May. At

that time the Nominating Committee will present someone else to fill a two year term as Treasurer. In the meantime, if you have skills in budgeting and would be interested in the job of Treasurer, please contact Carrie Hoffman, Chair of the Nominating Committee, and submit your name for consideration.

Christmas Eve Soup Social

Please join us for the Soup Social after the Christmas Eve Service. Sign-up to bring a soup or bread to share.

Board Notes

The Straws and the Frazees have agreed to co-chair this year's Canvass Drive. They are in the initial stages of developing an innovative and exciting Canvass plan.

To better facilitate the flow of information between key committees and the Board, the Board meeting has been changed from the first Saturday of the month to the third Saturday of the month. This change will be effective in December. The next meeting will be held on December 19, 2009, at 10 a.m.

Bob Brown, Board Secretary

Boiler Capital Campaign

Your Board Officers and the Operations Committee have opened a capital campaign for replacement of the boiler heating system. Our old boiler is not capable of meeting the demands of our Michigan winters anymore. The campaign goal is \$10,000. Please

consider making a donation to this fund. Many donations, small and large, will help us meet our goal. Checks may be made out to "UUCF" with "boiler" in the memo line. Let's avoid a cold sanctuary on wintry Sunday mornings! Donations as of Nov. 17: \$4225

Thank you,
Jennifer Howard, Operations Chair

Kitchen Helpers Needed During the Holidays

Kitchen Help needed especially for the holidays. Please volunteer for one Sunday now until after January 4th, 2010. We need YOUR help.

Thanks,
Diane Vack, Red Carpet Committee

Christmas Pageant In Need Of Cheery Adults And Children To Sing And Be Merry!

Please join us in putting on a successful Christmas Pageant. We are in need of: CHILDREN! Also, adults for Santa Claus, Papa Snowman, Mama Snowman, Ebenezer Scrooge, and chorus singers. Other ways to help include: assisting with props, decorations, costumes, rehearsals, stage directing and getting the word out. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 6:30 in the sanctuary. The performance is during church on Sunday, Dec. 20. Some props we need: Christmas trees, "snow", Christmas lights (both white and colors), big pieces of cardboard, construction paper, paint

For costumes we need: Felt, or elf caps (or both), reindeer antlers, mittens and scarves, a big heart on a chain (to be Melton's heart), a black top hat

For more info, or to get involved, contact me at PiaAntoinette@yahoo.com.

UUCF Holiday Wish List

Every year at the holiday season, we compile a Wish List. We hope that many of you will be able to gift us with an item or two or donate money toward an item. This is an opportunity for a tax deduction.

Wish List

Kitchen: dishtowels and cloths, dish soap, liquid hand soap, regular coffee, paper plates and napkins, measuring cups

Operations Committee: 19 white, 8 foot tables (to replace the heavy brown wooden ones) \$70 each , 4 chair caddies \$400 each, new copier for the office \$8,000 - \$10,000

Janitor: 1 plastic bristled broom

Staff Holiday Appreciation

The Holiday Season is fast approaching. As in years past, we will be honoring our staff with a monetary gift from the congregation. Please make your checks payable to "Ruth Straw" with a memo of "Staff Gifts". I will be collecting your donations beginning Sunday, November 29 through Sunday, December 20th. Checks can also be sent to Ruth at 6580 Kings Pointe Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439. These are gifts and as such are not tax deductible.

Our staff this year includes: Rev. Shirley Ranck (Minister), Amy Peterson Derrick (Director of Lifespan Learning), Pia Broden-Williams (Music Director), Cheryl Craig (Building and Communications Manager), Tina Dewey (Bookkeeper), Katie Straw (Custodian and Childcare), Dominique Brown (Childcare), Annie Cross (Childcare)

Thank you, Ruth Straw

Holiday Open Houses

The Christmas Holidays is a time to celebrate with family, renew old friendships and make new ones. We gather together and express our hopes and bless those around us. What would be more appropriate than to open our homes to each other as we carry out these Holiday Rituals. Please consider having an open house to bring cheer to each other. Signup Sheets will be available at Church or please call Rose Klein, Events Coordinator at 810-793-1634 or 180-358-8595 if you are interested in hosting an Open House.

Winter Family Open House
Holiday Party at the Home of the Johnston-Morales Family
Saturday, **December 12**, 4:00-8:00 p.m.
1511 Woodcroft Ave., Flint, MI 48503

Open House at the Home of Rev. Shirley Ranck
Sunday, **December 20**, 3:00-6:00 p.m.
3720 Maryland Ave., Flint, MI 48506

Dances of Universal Peace

The Dances of Universal Peace are a body of spiritual songs and dances representing the joy of the human heart.

This group prayer is formed through the creative wellspring of mantras in the original language of those who brought them across. As above, so below. We dance in harmony with the spheres. We join hands and rejoice in our loving voices. All dances are taught. People of all faiths are invited and welcomed. This is a celebration of who we are as a diverse people sharing in the oneness of life.

The Dance gatherings are for adults and teenage youth. Persons 6-12 years old who want to participate and who are accompanied by an adult/guardian are welcome to join us. It is important that we maintain an atmosphere of worship and reverence so that all will be able to fully engage in the experience.

www.peaceworksdancesna.org

A love offering will be collected each time from the participants. The suggested donation is \$10/person, but amounts large and small are graciously appreciated. No one will be turned away for inability to offer money. The money collected is to cover the expenses of creating this worship experience.

Dances of Universal Peace

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint

2474 S. Ballenger Hwy., Flint, 810-232-4023

(just south of Miller Rd. behind K-Mart)

When: Sunday afternoon, **1pm-3pm,**
Dec. 6

Contact Sue Kirby for more information or to request childcare arrangements.

810-241-4223

flintkirby@yahoo.com

NESK Angel Gift Giving Program

The UUCF will again be participating in the Angel Christmas Gift Giving Program through the NESK. Sue Kirby will be getting the names of 30 children. Please contact Sue if you'd like to be responsible for purchasing a Holiday Gift for a child whose family is registered through the North End Soup Kitchen. You may shop for one child or as many as you would like. Some families take the same number of names to match the number of names in their own family. Please be as generous as you are able to be.

Other donations that are needed for the NESK adults at Christmas time.... ALL NEW. PLEASE.... bath sized towels, bags of white women's socks, bags of white men's socks, bags of combs, bags of toothbrushes, small tubes of toothpaste, bars of soap. Call Sue if you have any questions. Watch for more details.....

Thank you. Peace, Sue Kirby, 810-241-4223

Foreign Exchange Host Families Needed

Educational Merit Foundation is a small non-profit, foreign-exchange student organization looking for caring host families in our community! They still have 2 students from Germany who would like to come for the 2010 Spring semester and are waiting for their match with a volunteer host family. Most of these students come from Christian homes, and their parents would appreciate the opportunity for their children to practice their religion while they are in this country.

Open your heart and home to a German exchange student for the coming 2010 spring semester. Caring host families (with or without children) are needed to provide food, a bed and a loving home for the second semester starting in January. EMF students have medical insurance, spending money for their personal expenses and expect to share their host family's daily life including household responsibilities. They speak English, are well-screened and eager to experience life in America. Their stay here is sponsored and supervised by EMF (Educational Merit Foundation), a non-profit, educational exchange program. For more information on EMF students, please call Marie-Claude Dijoud now at 1-800-467-8363 or visit our web site at www.emfusa.org

Thank you very much for your help! These students are anxious to learn that a home has been found for them. Your

contribution to this cause is most appreciated... Please help us make the dream come true!

Sincerely,

Marie-Claude Dijoud

Program Director

105 Lake Forest Court Garland, TX
75044

972-495-3868

Weekly Volunteers

First Sunday

Greeters	Charles Thomas Bob Barnett Philip Greenfield Cecelia Terrell Cathy & Dave
Ushers	
Frazee	
Kitchen	Ann Marlin
Office	Margie Latter
Sound	Thorpe Saxton
Security	Jennifer Howard

Second Sunday

Greeters	Ron Krueger Jessica Hammon Sheila Smith
Ushers	Bonnie Pobocik Ann Giese Todd Bostwick
Kitchen	Rita Short
Office	Howard Schultz
Sound	Dave Handwerker
Security	John Helsom

Third Sunday

Greeters	Audrey Bassett Rose & Don Klein, Brent Smalley Rose Klein
Ushers	Rita Sol
Kitchen	Gael Edmonds
Office	Dave Hurt
Sound	Dr. Van Winkle
Security	

Christmas Eve

Sound	Dave Handwerker
Ushers	Wyn Handwerker & John Straw

Fourth Sunday

Greeters	Scott Stensaas Brent Smalley Phyllis Stanbury John Straw & Brent
Ushers	
Smalley	
Kitchen	Diane Vack
Office	Dorothy Davis
Sound	Karen Olson
Security	Don Klein

Second Sunday Collection for Wellness-World AIDS Day **December 2009**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 *World AIDS Day *Yoga, Fellowship Hall, 7:35-8:35 a.m. *Tuesday Covenant Group, 1:15 pm	2 *Choir rehearsal, 6:30 pm *Flute Choir, 8pm	3 *Yoga, Fellowship Hall, 7:35-8:35 a.m. *Lifespan Learning Committee meeting, 1:30 p.m. *Children's Choir rehearsal, 6:30 pm	4 *Communications Committee meeting, 10:30 a.m.	5
6 *Worship, 10:30 am	7 *Community Sing, Fellowship Hall 7 p.m.	8 *Yoga, Fellowship Hall, 7:35-8:35 a.m. *Finance Committee meeting, 4 p.m.	9 *Operations Comm. Meeting, 5 p.m. *Choir rehearsal, 6:30 pm *Flute Choir, 8pm	10 *Yoga, Fellowship Hall, 7:35-8:35 a.m. *Children's Choir rehearsal, 6:30 pm	11	12 *Johnston-Morales Winter Open House 4-8 p.m.
13*Worship, 10:30 am *Second Sunday/Second Principle Collection *Welcoming Pot Luck Luncheon *Endowment Comm. meeting, 12:30 p.m. *PFLAG, 2-4:30 p.m.	14	15 *Yoga, Fellowship Hall, 7:35-8:35 a.m.	16 *Choir rehearsal, 6:30 pm *Flute Choir, 8pm	17 *Yoga, Fellowship Hall, 7:35-8:35 a.m. *Children's Choir rehearsal, 6:30 pm	18 *Membership Committee meeting, 1:30 p.m.	19 *Board meeting, 10 a.m.
20 *Worship, 10:30 am *Rev. Ranck Open House 3-6 p.m. FACT LOM-Cancelled	21	22 *Yoga, Fellowship Hall, 7:35-8:35 a.m.	23	24 *Yoga-Cancelled *Soup Social time to be announced in e-Update	25 *Christmas Day *Office Closed	26
27 *Worship, 10:30 am	28	29 *Yoga-Cancelled	30*Choir rehearsal, 6:30 pm *Flute Choir, 8pm	31 *New Year's Eve *Yoga-Cancelled		